

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
31 December 2003 (31.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/001670 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷:

G06T 5/00

(74) Agents: NICHOLLS, Michael, John et al.; J.A. Kemp & Co., 14 South Square, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5JJ (GB).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2003/002686

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date: 20 June 2003 (20.06.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

0214397.2 21 June 2002 (21.06.2002) GB

0222066.3 23 September 2002 (23.09.2002) GB

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **ISIS INNOVATION LIMITED [GB/GB]**; Ewert House, Ewert Place, Summertown, Oxfordshire OX2 7SG (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

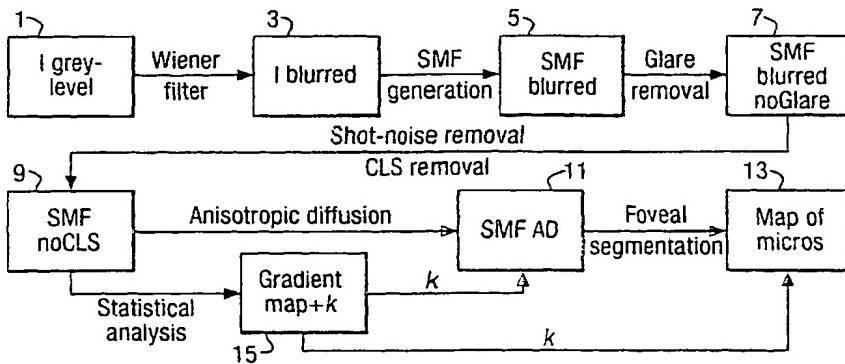
(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **BRADY, John, Michael [GB/GB]**; 23 Sandfield Road, Headington, Oxfordshire OX3 7RN (GB). **LINGURARU, Marius, George [RO/FR]**; Epidare Research Group, INRIA, 2400, route des Lucioles, B.P. 93, F-06902 Sophia Antipolis Cedex (FR).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO IMAGE PROCESSING



(57) Abstract: Image processing method, particularly suitable for processing noisy images such as digitised mammograms. An adaptive anisotropic diffusion processing method is described in which the diffusion parameter is adjusted in accordance with the contrast in the image. An adaptive foveal segmentation method is also described in which the segmentation parameters are set adaptively in accordance with the contrast in the image.